

	<p>United States Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Forest Service</p>	<h1>News Release</h1>	<p>KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST</p> <p>1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-6131 www.fs.usda.gov/klamath</p>	
<p>Date: August 11, 2010</p>	<p>For Immediate Release</p>	<p>Contact: Tom Lavagnino (530) 841-4485 tlavagnino@fs.fed.us</p>		

Klamath National Forest Approves Motorized Travel Management Plan

YREKA, Calif. –Forest Supervisor Patricia Grantham has signed a Record of Decision (ROD) implementing Subpart B of the Motorized Travel Management Rule for the Klamath National Forest. The decision documented in the ROD is expected to be implemented January 1, 2011.

The decision designates those roads and trails open for motorized use on the Forest. It adds 73 miles of formerly unauthorized routes to the National Forest Transportation System (NFTS), authorizes motorized mixed use (by both non-highway and highway-legal vehicles) on 264 miles of NFTS roads, and creates two open riding areas. The decision also prohibits motorized use off designated roads and trails outside open riding areas.

"This decision balances motorized recreation opportunities with the protection of natural and cultural resources the desires of some for non-motorized opportunities." Grantham said. "The Klamath National Forest has been working with the public since 2003 to identify and analyze routes for addition to our road system. This decision designates motorized travel routes and areas for the entire Forest. It is the first step in an ongoing process. We expect to continue to work with interested individuals and groups to identify future changes needed in the transportation system."

The decision (Alternative 7 Modified) as described in the ROD:

- Adds 28 miles of formerly unauthorized routes to the NFTS as roads (including 13 miles open to highway vehicles only in the Butte Valley National Grassland).
- Adds 25 miles of formerly unauthorized routes to access dispersed camping and river sites.
- Adds 20 miles of formerly unauthorized routes as motorized trails.
- Authorizes use by non-highway vehicles on 131 miles of roads where such use is currently prohibited.
- Converts 133 miles of roads to a lower maintenance class to allow use by all vehicle types.

- Authorizes motorized use on one road which was previously closed.
- Prohibits non-highway vehicle use on eight miles of road currently open to these vehicles.
- Designates two open riding areas (53 acres) where motor vehicles are allowed anywhere within the area boundary.
- Amends the Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to prohibit cross-country motorized travel, and exempts three roads in the Butte Valley National Grassland from a seasonal restriction.

This decision does not close any part of the existing NFTS, which includes more than 2,700 miles of roads, open to all motor vehicles.

A Klamath National Forest Motorized Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was released in January 2010. The FEIS provides details on the process, alternatives and analysis used to inform the decision.

A copy of the Record of Decision may be obtained by contacting Recreation Officer Togan Capozza at (530) 841-4467 or Public Affairs Officer Tom Lavagnino at (530) 841-4485. The Record of Decision and Final EIS are also available on the forest website www.fs.usda.gov/klamath.

A Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) depicting the designated roads, trails and areas open for motorized vehicle use on the Klamath National Forest will be produced by the end of 2010. The MVUM will indicate where forest users can drive on the Forest, and the class of vehicle authorized for each road, trail and area. The map, which will be available at no cost, will be revised and reissued as needed to accommodate future changes to the Forest's designated transportation system.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 215). The 45-day appeal period is calculated from the legal notice publication date in the Siskiyou Daily News, which is expected to be August 13, 2010. Detailed procedures for appeal are provided in the Record of Decision.